

"The Time Is Critical, and the Response Must Be Complete." — President Wilson

Militaristic Rule Of Germany Over, Erzberger Says

New Member of Cabinet Declares Civilian Power Is Increasing

For League of Nations Wants End of Use of Force in International Disputes

LONDON, Oct. 12.—German military power has already been placed under civil control in a complete and permanent fashion, so far as politics is concerned, according to an interview with Matthias Erzberger, the Centrist leader of the Reichstag, sent out by the German government wireless service. This interview is being published with the evident intention of influencing public opinion abroad.

Thus, General von Stein, the Prussian War Minister, had to be eliminated because he had always worked against a peace by understanding, the interview says. General Scheuch, his successor, is said to be a man of liberal views and the first non-Prussian ever to occupy the position. Two commanding generals, von Vietinghoff and von Hachmeister, have been removed because they were considered the embodiment of militarism.

Army Power Lessened

All decisions of commanding generals in the interior of Germany concerning administrative functions are made dependent upon the approval of the presidents of provinces, with an appeal to General Scheuch and finally to the Chancellor, who is legally responsible, according to Erzberger.

Von Berg Was too Active

Herr von Berg, chief of Emperor William's civilian Cabinet, had to resign because he had interfered during the formation of the new Cabinet in a manner which aroused the indignation of the majority parties of the Reichstag. Erzberger says that this makes it evident that militarism has been forever removed from Germany.

Asked whether he would promote the principles of a league of nations, Erzberger replied:

"That is just what I mean to do. States must altogether exist from the application of force in the settlement of international disputes. This natural law will mean that they must renounce part of their sovereignty, but they must obtain, through the league, mutual protection against arbitrary force."

Arguing that all states must unreservedly submit their disputes to arbitration, Erzberger says that the league of nations must establish an organization of imperial courts and guarantee the execution of verdicts by these tribunals. Members of these courts, however, must always be appointed with the consent of the peoples concerned, so that all nations will have confidence in the actions of the courts, he says.

Text of Historic Notes; Wilson's "Fourteen Points"

On October 6 the Imperial German Chancellor, Prince Maximilian, through the Swiss government, forwarded this note to President Wilson:

The German government requests the President of the United States to take in hand the restoration of peace, acquaint all the belligerent states of this request and invite them to send plenipotentiaries for the purpose of opening negotiations. It accepts the programme set forth by the President of the United States in his message to Congress on January 8 and in his later pronouncements, especially his speech of September 27, as a basis for peace negotiations.

With a view to avoiding further bloodshed, the German government requests the immediate conclusion of an armistice on land and water and in the air.

On October 8 this reply was made through the charge d'affaires of the Swiss Legation:

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge on behalf of the President your note of October 6, inclosing the communication from the German government to the President; and I am instructed by the President to request you to make the following communication to the Imperial German Chancellor:

Before making reply to the request of the Imperial German government, and in order that that reply shall be as candid and straightforward as the momentous interests involved require, the President of the United States deems it necessary to assure himself of the exact meaning of the note of the Imperial Chancellor. Does the Imperial German government accept the terms laid down by the President in his address to the Congress of the United States on the 8th of January last and in subsequent addresses and that its object in entering into discussions would be only to agree upon the practical details of their application?

The President feels bound to say with regard to the suggestion of an armistice that he would not feel at liberty to propose a cessation of arms to the governments with which the government of the United States is associated against the Central Powers so long as the armies of those powers are upon their soil. The good faith of any discussion would manifestly depend upon the consent of the Central Powers immediately to withdraw their forces everywhere from invaded territory.

The President also feels that he is justified in asking whether the Imperial Chancellor is speaking merely for the constituted authorities of the empire who have so far conducted the war. He deems the answer to these questions vital from every point of view.

Accept, sir, the renewed assurance of my high consideration.

ROBERT LANSING.

Wilson's "Fourteen Points"

On January 8 President Wilson,

addressing Congress, laid down this programme of the world's peace:

1. Open covenants of peace only arrived at, after which there shall be no private international understandings of any kind, but diplomacy shall proceed always frankly and in the public view.

2. Absolute freedom of navigation upon the seas outside territorial waters alike in peace and in war except as the seas may be closed in whole or in part by international action for the enforcement of international covenants.

3. The removal so far as possible of all economic barriers and the establishment of an equality of trade conditions among all nations consenting to the peace and associating themselves for its maintenance.

4. Adequate guarantees given and taken that national armaments will be reduced to the lowest point consistent with domestic safety.

5. A free, open-minded and absolutely impartial adjustment of all colonial claims, based upon a strict observance of the principle that the determination of such questions of sovereignty must be made in the interest of the populations concerned must have equal weight with the equitable claims of the government whose title is to be determined.

6. The evacuation of all Russian territory and such a settlement of all questions affecting Russia as will secure the best and freest cooperation of the other nations of the world in obtaining for her an unhampered and unembarrassed opportunity for the independent determination of her own political development and national policy, and assure her of a sincere welcome into the society of free nations under institutions of her own choosing, and more than a welcome assistance also of every kind that she may need, and may herself desire. The treatment accorded Russia by her sister nations in the months to come will be the acid test of their good will, of their comprehension of her needs as distinguished from their own interests and of their intelligent and unselfish sympathy.

Belgium Must Be Restored

7. Belgium, the whole world will agree, must be evacuated and restored without any attempt to limit the sovereignty which she enjoys in common with all other free nations. No other single act will serve as this will serve to restore confidence among the nations in the laws which they themselves have set and determined for the government of their relations with one another. Without this healing of the wounds of Belgium and validity of international law is forever impaired.

8. All French territory should be freed and the invaded portions restored, and the wrong done to France by Prussia in 1871 in the matter of Alsace-Lorraine, which has unsettled the peace of the world for nearly fifty years, should be righted, in order that peace may once more be made secure in the interest of all.

9. A readjustment of the frontiers of Italy should be effected along clearly recognizable lines of nationality.

10. The peoples of Austria-Hungary, whose place among nations we wish to see safeguarded and assured, should be accorded the freest opportunity of autonomous development.

Situation in the Balkans

11. Rumania, Serbia and Montenegro should be evacuated, occupied territories restored, Serbia accorded free and secure access to the sea, and the relations of the several Balkan states to one another determined by friendly counsel along historically established lines of allegiance and nationality, and international guarantees of the political and economic independence and territorial integrity of the several Balkan states should be entered into.

12. The Turkish portions of the present Ottoman Empire should be assured a secure sovereignty, but the other nationalities which are now under Turkish rule should be assured an undoubted security of life and an absolutely unmolested opportunity of autonomous development, and the Dardanelles should be permanently opened as a free passage to the ships and commerce of all nations under international guarantees.

For Independent Poland.

13. An independent Polish State should be erected, which should include the territories inhabited by indisputably Polish populations, which should be assured a free and secure access to the sea and whose political and economic independence and territorial integrity should be guaranteed by international covenant.

14. A general association of nations must be formed under specific covenants for the purpose of affording mutual guarantees of political independence and territorial integrity to great and small States alike.

President Defined Issues

President Wilson, in his address at the Metropolitan Opera House on September 27, at the opening of the Liberty Loan campaign, declared that there could be no peace which did not settle certain issues. These issues, the President said, were:

Shall the military power of any nation or group of nations be suffered to determine the fortunes of peoples over whom they have no right to rule except the right of force? Shall strong nations be free to wrong weak nations and make them subject to their purpose and interest? Shall peoples be ruled and dominated, even in their own internal affairs, by arbitrary and irresponsible force or by their own will and choice?

Shall there be a common standard of right and privilege for all peoples and nations or shall the strong do as they will and the weak suffer without redress? Shall the assertion of right be haphazard and by casual alliance or shall there be a common consent to oblige the observance of common rights?

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Huns Want Neutral Zone Between Armies

(Special Cable to The Tribune)

LONDON, Oct. 12.—Amsterdam declares that Prince Maximilian, the German Chancellor, will announce: First, that his government is speaking in the name of the German people; second, that Germany is prepared to evacuate Belgium on the condition that peace negotiations begin immediately; third, that Germany will ask the establishment of a neutral zone between the armies. Fourth, that Germany will ask all Entente governments to be bound by Wilson's terms.

at Mount Vernon, on July 4, President Wilson said:

"There can be but one issue. The settlement must be final. There can be no compromise. No halfway decision would be tolerable. These are the ends for which the associated peoples of the world are fighting, and which must be conceded them before there can be peace:

"1. The destruction of every arbitrary power anywhere that can separately, secretly and of its single choice disturb the peace of the world; or, if it cannot be presently destroyed, at the least its reduction to virtual impotence.

"2. The settlement of every question, whether of territory, of sovereignty, of economic arrangement, or of political relationship, upon the basis of the free acceptance of that settlement by the people immediately concerned, and not upon the basis of the material interest or advantage of any other nation or people which may desire a different settlement for the sake of its own exterior influence or mastery.

"3. The consent of all nations to be governed in their conduct toward each other by the same principles of honor and respect for the common law of civilized society that govern the individual citizens of all modern nations in their relations with one another; to the end that all promises and covenants may be sacredly observed, no private plots or conspiracies hatched, no selfish injuries wrought with impunity, and a mutual trust established upon the handsome foundation of a mutual respect for right.

"4. The establishment of an organization of peace which shall make it certain that the combined power of free nations will check every invasion of right and serve to make peace and justice the more secure by affording a definite tribunal of opinion to which all must submit and by which every international readjustment that cannot be amicably agreed upon by the people directly concerned, shall be decided by the people of the world.

"These great objects can be put into a single sentence. What we seek is the reign of law, based upon the consent of the governed and sustained by the organized opinion of mankind."

President Learns First of Peace News Through the Press

Continued from Page 1

amazement, and replied that President Wilson had not seen the note, and the secretary requested that the text be telegraphed to him at once. He announced, however, that the President could not indicate in the slightest degree what his answer would be until he had opportunity to study the official text.

The reply was sent immediately to the box where the President was seated with Colonel E. M. House, his close friend and trusted adviser. It was read with most intense interest. Soon thereafter Secretary Tumulty disappeared, and it was assumed he was in telephone communication with Secretary of State Lansing, in Washington.

Escorted to Morgan Box

President Wilson, accompanied by Mrs. Wilson, Miss Margaret Wilson, Colonel and Mrs. House, Count di Celleri, the Italian Ambassador, and Countess di Celleri, arrived at the Metropolitan shortly after 8:30 o'clock. They were escorted to the box of J. P. Morgan, where the President took the stage and looked down upon the audience.

As the party took their seats the splendid orchestra played "The Star-Spangled Banner." Every person in the audience, and the great auditorium was packed, rose and cheered the President.

None realized, except those in the Presidential party, that they were witnessing one of the most amazing diplomatic dramas ever enacted. If the President was stirred by the

Salih Bey Demands New Turk Regime Expel Bernstorff

Exiled Head of Ottoman News Bureau Wants Ex- Ministers Arrested

He Cables the Premier Says Members of Deposed Cabinet Are Assassins and Must Be Punished

In a cable addressed to the Premier of the newly formed Turkish Cabinet, Tewfik Pasha, a request has been sent to Turkey by Salih Bey Gourdji, former president of the Turkish Official News Agency, who was forced to flee from his native land a year ago and seek refuge in the United States. He demands the arrest and trial of members of the deposed Cabinet, and advises that Count von Bernstorff be dismissed by the country.

Salih Bey lives at 65 West Fifty-second Street, and has been active in assisting the cause of the Allies while residing here.

The message was sent by way of a cable, and Salih Bey expects to receive a reply within a few days. The cabled appeal reads:

"I beg your excellency to submit, in virtue of right of petition at the first assembly of the Chamber, a request demanding the arrest of all members of the deposed Cabinet and their trial, and for the treason to the country, Constantinople to be heard by the parliament."

The ministers who launched Turkey into the war in defiance of the constitution and the will of the nation, or the will of the Sultan and of the counsels of all the Ottoman ambassadors, to whom yourself belongs are responsible for the disruption of Turkey and for the treason to the country.

"The ministers whom, under German influence, ordered the Armenian massacre, are assassins who brought shame and dishonor upon Turkey.

"My heart bleeds at seeing the misfortunes overwhelming Turkey. Because I had foreseen, denounced and tried to avoid them in 1914, I was compelled to flee and take refuge abroad, where, following the dictate of my conscience, I have supported the cause of the Allies who fight in defence of the rights of humanity.

"If the brave and honest Turkish people and the government now representing them would preserve the sympathies of the world, the authors of all the crimes and misfortunes brought upon the nation must be punished."

"Hoist Flag Of Surrender," London Cries

Continued from Page 1

cabled from Holland, persist in using the word 'compromise' with reference to the application of the President's principles. But the feeling in London is that it will be hard for the Allied armies to hold their hand in the hour of seeming victory.

"Unconditional surrender" is the watchword much more appealing to the British people in this hour than any commission to arrange for evacuation. Events in the past week, particularly the sinking of the Leinster, have steeled British hearts against a compromise.

There is a strong belief here, voiced even by the "compromising" papers that there are yet two powers in Germany—one power of the new government, the other of the army—and that it is not yet decided which is supreme.

Allies Will Have a Say

Germany's acceptance of President Wilson's terms in no wise means that her acceptance of a trial of members of Britain and France. The restoration of "ship for ship" from the German mercantile marine for all submarine losses is a British principle which apparently is accepted by all the British people.

Commenting on the reply, "The Sunday Observer" says:

"The first issue for us is the maritime question. We ought to insist that the German submarine campaign should now be marked out for special treatment in immediate connection with any peace preliminary. If any military armistice is accompanied by concrete guarantees, so must a naval armistice. We ought to insist, before there can be any suspension of hostilities, that the German submarines shall be surrendered to the Allies and America."

Germany Wants All Her Colonies Returned to Her

PARIS, Oct. 12.—Semi-official summaries from comments in the German press, issued to-night, indicate that Germany, in answer to the demand for an evacuation of occupied territory, will ask as an offset the evacuation of German colonies and occupied Turkish territory.

According to some newspaper comments published in Germany, Prince Maximilian will have no difficulty in announcing the adoption without restriction of President Wilson's programme.

Germany is apparently hurrying, in view of the latest ministerial moves, to appear to be a democratic state. Political amnesty will be announced and a new governor will be appointed for Alsace-Lorraine. Martial law will be modified and a liberal Minister of War will be named.

The whole movement is expected to result in the establishment of a responsible ministry, which is now said to be only a veneer. The rumor persists that these ministerial and governmental readjustments have been undertaken with the view to causing the Allies to regard Germany as democratic and to welcome her reply.



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Australian Diocese Opposes Return of Hun Colonies

MELBOURNE, Oct. 12.—The Anglican Diocese of Australia, at a recent meeting here, went on record as opposed to the reversion after the war of New Guinea and other Pacific territories to Germany, their former owner.

A resolution to that effect was passed by the diocese after the body came to the conclusion that, in view of the inhuman treatment accorded to the natives of German colonies, it would be incompatible with the principles of Christianity to allow the natives to be placed again under the yoke of their oppressors.

Allied Governments Agree on Peace Action

LONDON, Oct. 12.—The Ministers of the Allied governments, says "The Express," have discussed the German peace overtures and agreed upon a line of common action. The British, French and Italian ministers first conferred and reached a decision after which the British and French cabinets confirmed the conclusions.

Reichstag Meets Wednesday

COPENHAGEN, Friday, Oct. 11.—The German Reichstag will meet Wednesday, according to advices from Berlin.

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